

file disclosure reports with the IRS monthly. Previously, organizations in this category were only required to file quarterly. Third, organizations that have less than \$25,000 in receipts must file quarterly. Fourth, the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Election Commission must work together to improve the database disclosure system.

This bill will provide the American people with more information about who is donating to the political process and how that money is being spent. If we want to inspire and encourage more Americans to participate in the political process, we must make all aspects of the process accessible to them.

The guidelines in my bill will expose political organizations' donors and demonstrate they have nothing to hide. Moreover, this information will help Americans to make more informed choices.

I believe that efforts to restrict 527 organizations could raise First Amendment concerns and may merely result in their reconstitution as 501(c)4, 501(c)5 and 501(c)6 organizations, which have virtually no public disclosure requirements. I believe that it would be more beneficial to our political process to mandate greater transparency of 527's rather than attempting to shut them down or otherwise curtail their participation in the political process. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### HONORING MARTIN FUNERAL HOME

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the Martin Funeral Home, of Mt. Morris, MI. On Saturday, September 11, 2004, the funeral home along with the community will commemorate this milestone with a full day of festivities that will include the sealing of a time capsule, a replica of President Lincoln's coffin, and free workshops on grief management.

Mr. Miles B. Martin established the Martin Funeral Home in November of 1929. Miles received his mortuary license from Worsham School of Anatomy in Chicago on June 28, 1928. He married Mildred C. Doyle and of this wonderful union were born three sons, Patrick J., Michael A. and Miles T. "Tom". Mrs. Martin worked alongside her husband as a licensed funeral director to build one of the largest family owned funeral businesses in Genesee County. Of the three sons, Miles T. "Tom" Martin took on the interest of mortuary science. He received his degree in Mortuary Science from Wayne State University. His desire to assist his father in the business was delayed by the call to serve his country in the U.S. Army as a combat medic in Vietnam. On January 1, 1972, Miles T. acquired the family business from his father. On October 21, 1988 Miles B. Martin passed away and Mildred C. Martin on August 30, 1993.

Miles T., in his commitment to honor his father's mission of providing affordable and caring funeral service for Genesee County, has expanded the operation by opening homes in Vassar and Fairgrove. The process of bereavement can be overwhelming. The commu-

nity has come to know they can depend on the Martin family to help them through this difficult process. I commend the Martins for taking on, and being committed to this delicate task.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring the Martin Family and their Funeral home for 75 years of unwavering support and guidance to those who have lost loved ones.

#### SALUTING MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND PARENTS FOR OUTSTANDING SAT SCORES

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues the news that the highest systemwide average SAT score (1102) ever achieved by the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) was produced by the graduating class of 2004, marking the first time the average score has exceeded 1100. The average included the highest ever average mathematics score (561) and the highest average verbal score in 12 years (541), the first increase in the average verbal score in five years. The improvements were achieved with a student participation rate of 80.2 percent, representing the largest group (7,263 students) ever to take the test in the school district.

The higher SAT scores mark the achievements of the first graduating class of students taking the SAT who were exposed to the full range of the ongoing high school reforms in Montgomery County. The reforms began when the students were ninth graders in the 2000–2001 school year and have expanded greatly the opportunities for more rigorous coursework in preparation for college.

In addition, the improvement included a significant gain in the system's "average highest score," the same number used by colleges to identify the best performance among students on the SAT. The system's average highest score increased to 1115 last year, the best result ever and an increase of eight points over the year before.

Overall, there were numerous achievements in the 2004 SAT results for which MCPS should be proud:

Highest ever average SAT score of 1102, a gain of eight points;

Best ever "average highest SAT score" of 1115, a gain of eight points;

Highest ever average math score (561);

Largest number of students ever taking the SAT (7,263 students);

Highest average score for white students (1163), a gain of 10 points;

Highest average score for Asian American students (1160), a gain of 33 points;

Most high schools (four) with average scores above 1200;

Most high schools (11) with average scores above 1100; and

Average score of students receiving special education services increased by 26 points to 924.

The average scores for African American and Hispanic students receiving Federal meal assistance also increased significantly—up 17 points among African American students (854) and six points among Hispanic students (837). This is an important point because the percentage of both groups of students participating in the Free and Reduced-price Meal System (FARMS) is increasing, lowering the overall average score for each group even as the specific subgroup scores increase.

According to Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools, all of this has occurred during a significant demographic change in student enrollment, characterized by greater cultural and racial/ethnic diversity, a rise in students from low-income families, an increase in the number of students for whom English is a second language, and more students with disabilities.

I want to commend Dr. Weast, the Members of the Montgomery County Board of Education, and all teachers, principals and staff for implementing school improvements including strengthened curriculum, improved assessments, greater coordination among and within schools, and increased staff training and professional development. The improvements also included increased student enrollment in expanded Advanced Placement (AP) and honors courses.

Mr. Speaker, public schools are truly the backbone of our community. Young people across America face ever-changing social and economic challenges. We have an obligation to prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead, and I applaud the great work of the teachers, principals and other education personnel in Montgomery County who offer so much support to our families.

#### HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GAYLE RUDOFSKY

#### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gayle Rudofsky, a Half Hollow Hills High School East student who has been named a 2003–04 High School All American in Diving.

Ms. Rudofsky has a long history of diving accolades, including being named one of the Top 40 High School Divers in the United States, winning the 2003 New York State Public High School Women's Diving Championship and winning the Lester J. Schloen Jr. Memorial Award for Most Promising First Year Diver. She recently broke her own Suffolk County 11–dive meet record and also set a new Suffolk County 6–dive meet scoring record. In addition to these record-breaking performances, the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association ranked Ms. Rudofsky the third best high school diver in 11–dive competitions and the fourth best diver in 6–dive meets. She is also a member of Long Island Divers, a U.S. Diving Team, and is qualified to represent the Long Island region in the 2004 Empire State Games.

Not only has Ms. Rudofsky accomplished much on the diving board, she is also gifted in the classroom. She has managed to balance an outstanding athletic career with equally impressive academics. Ms. Rudofsky has been